

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:

a database associating subscriber ~~MIN~~ phone numbers with servicing carriers;

a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and

an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a digital message packet addressed with only a ~~MIN~~ phone number, to perform a lookup in said database associating subscriber ~~MIN~~ phone numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said ~~MIN~~ phone number.

2. (original) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said digital message packet is an e-mail.

3. (currently amended) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said database associating subscriber ~~MIN~~ phone numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said message distribution center forms a store and forward messaging platform.

7. (currently amended) A method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a ~~MIN phone number~~ only;

associating a carrier providing service to said ~~MIN phone number~~;

formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said ~~MIN phone number~~ with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said ~~MIN phone number~~ only; and

routing said new digital message packet.

8. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

9. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said MIN phone number with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN phone number forms a routable address.

14. (original) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a MIN phone number only;

means for associating a carrier providing service to said MIN phone number;

means for formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said MIN phone number with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN phone number; and

means for routing said new digital message packet.

16. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

17. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 16, wherein:

said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

 said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:

 said MIN phone number with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN phone number forms a routable address.

22. (original) The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 21, wherein:

 said routable address is an e-mail address.

23. (new) In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein said digital message packet comprises:

 a short text message.

24. (new) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein said new digital message packet comprises:

 a short text message.

25. (new) The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

 said new digital message packet is routed using an SMTP protocol.